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INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04
DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, IO 21, EUR 25, SAH 03, SAL 01, AID 30, RSR 01,
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R 060840Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8273
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL DANANG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/20/82
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7791

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: HAU NGHIA

REF: SAIGON 5958

1. OF THE TEN CANDIDATES WHO INITIALLY FILED FOR THE SINGLE LOWER HOUSE SEAT FROM HAU NGHIA (NAMES AND OCCUPATIONS REPORTED REFTEL), TWO HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED. BUI MINH QUAN, B. JULY 15, 1933, GIA BINH, BUSINESSMAN, WAS TAS TAN DAI VIET CANDIDATE AND ALSO REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY CVT PRESIDENT TRAN QUOC BUU. QUAN WAS DISQUALIFIED ON GROUNDS HIS APPLICATION WAS CERTIFIED BY TRANG BANG DISTRICT CHIEF AND

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NOT AS REQUIRED BY THE PROVINCE CHIEF. QUAN CLAIMS HE WAS

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ASSURED HIS APPLICATION WAS IN ORDER AND WAS NOT INFORMED OF DISCREPANCY UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE TO REPAIR [illegible] TAN DAI VIET MEMBERS CLAIM THIS IS ONLY ONE IN SERIES OF GVN HARASSMENTS OF THE TDV IN HAU NGHIA. TDV-SUPPORTED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TRUONG DINH DZU WON A THUMPING VICTORY SEPTEMBER 3. ALTHOUGH QUAN'S DISQUALIFICATION IS CONTROVERSIAL, TDV MEMBERS DO NOT RECONCILE THEIR CHARGES OF ADMINISTRATIVE HARASSMENT WITH FACT THEY ALSO CLAIM BOTH PROVINCE CHIEF, LTC COL MA SON NHON, AND DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION, NGUYEN LONG VINH, AS TDV MEMBERS THEMSELVES. NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, ELIMINATION OF QUAN REMOVED PROBABLY STRONGEST CONTENDER FOR THE HAU NGHIA SEAT.

2. [illegible] CANDIDATE DISQUALIFIED WAS VO VAN PHOI, AKA VO [illegible] MAY 3, 1904, SCA DIRECTOR, RICE MILL OWNER IN [illegible] AND ALSO FAILED TO FILE HIS CANDIDACY PROPERLY. [illegible] NOT REGARDED AS A POSSIBLE WINNER.

3. WITHOUT QUAN TDV APPARENTLY UNDECIDED WHETHER OR NOT BACK [illegible]

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RE 2ND LTC DAO THANH BIEN, B. JANUARY 30, 1928, NAT'L POLICE, NVN, OR FORMER PROVINCIAL CHIEF AND CHIEF OF VAN TAI, B. APRIL 1, 1922, IN HV THO. THESE ARE STRONGEST CANDIDATES REMAINING IN RACE AND TDV CHOICE BETWEEN THEM WILL PROBABLY PROVE DECISIVE.

4. BIEN IS ONE OF TWO CATHOLICS IN RACE IN HAU NGHIA AND PROBABLY HAS SUPPORT OF LOCAL CLERGY. ALTHOUGH CATHOLICS CONSTITUTE ONLY 10 TO 15 PERCENT PROVINCE POPULATION, THEY ARE ONLY ORGANIZED POLITICAL FORCE OTHER THAN TDV. CATHOLICS HAVE REPORTEDLY WORKED TOGETHER WITH TDV IN THE PAST ALTHOUGH NOT IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE [illegible] WITH HOPES THEY WILL DO SO AGAIN.

5. TAI, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING FOR SOME TIME, IS A [illegible] REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND IS GENERALLY WELL-KNOWN AND LIKED. TAI WILL RUN WELL IN

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HEAVILY CAO DAI TRANG BANG DISTRICT WHERE HE HAS BEEN COURTING SUPPORT FROM TDV ELDER STATESMAN NGUYEN TAN THAN, WHO ALSO RESIDES THERE.

6. CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE ARE FORMER DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION IN DUC HOA DISTRICT NGUYEN VAN QUI,

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B. FEBRUARY 20, 1940, GIA DINH, WHERE HE IS PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CHIEF. SOME SAY HE HAS BACKING OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SOME CHANCE IS ARVN MEDICAL DOCTOR MAJOR VU DAM, B. DECEMBER 22, 1930, IN THAI BINH, NVN. DAM, CURRENTLY SERVING WITH THE ARVN 25TH DIVISION WHICH IS HEADQUARTERED IN HAU NGHIA, IS RUMORED TO ENJOY BLESSING OF DIVISION'S COMMANDER, GENERAL CHINH.

7. OTHER CANDIDATE WHO IS CATHOLIC IS CAO XUAN MOC, B. 1900 IN GIA DINH, FORMER CANTON CHIEF (CU CHI DISTRICT). CAO DAI ALSO HAVE CHOICE OF SECOND CANDIDATE IN VAN VI CHAM, B. APRIL 1, 1932 IN TAY NINH. OTHERS IN THE RACE: TA NGOC CUONG, B. SEPTEMBER 4, 1935, CHOLON, CIVIL SERVANT: AND PHAM VAN CA, B. APRIL 24, 1922, TRANG BANG DISTRICT, HAU NGHIA.

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